the great destruction of ancient remains that had been going on for many years.

The Chairman remarked that the subject was undoubtedly one of great importance, and some of the local Societies had already commenced to record the position of these remains on the Ordnance maps. He stated that according to his experience the 1-inch map could be used, but the 6-inch map would be found much better. One desideratum in the work was a good system of symbols; such a system had been employed in a map of ancient remains recently published in France, and he stated that he should be happy to place this system at the disposal of the Committee. He added that he was glad to be able to announce that he had succeeded in getting an Act passed for the preservation of the ancient monuments of the Isle of Man.

Preservation of Stonehenge.—Dr. Garson stated that the Committee of Section H had forwarded a resolution to the Committee of Recommendations with reference to the preservation of Stonehenge, and, pending its consideration by this Committee, it had been suggested that it should also be brought under the notice of the Corresponding Societies through their Delegates, with the object of these using their influence, as far as possible, for the preservation of this and other monuments throughout the country. The following is the resolution referred to:[1]—"That the attention of the proprietor of Stonehenge be called to the danger in which several of the stones are at the present time from the burrowing of rabbits, and also to the desirability of removing the wooden props which support the horizontal stones of one of the trilithons, and, in view of the great value of Stonehenge as an ancient monument, to express the hope of the Association that some steps will be taken to remedy these sources of danger to the stones."

This resolution had originated last April during a joint meeting of the Geologists' Association and the Hampshire Field Club on Salisbury Plain, when copies were ordered to be forwarded to the proprietor, to the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, and to the Secretary of the Corresponding Societies Committee of the British Association. The proprietor of these valuable remains had hitherto refused to take advantage of the Ancient Monuments Act, though repeatedly requested to do so, neither had he paid due attention to their proper preservation, so that it had been thought desirable to move the foregoing resolution which had been sent to the proper quarter for confirmation by the General Committee of the Association.

Election of Corresponding Societies.—At the termination of the Conference, Mr. Davis raised the question whether a Corresponding Society when once admitted by the Association should not always be retained on the list.

The Secretary explained that the election of Corresponding Societies took place *annually*, and that each of these Societies would be expected to make an annual application for re-election on the printed forms sent out before June. There was no reason why a Society when once elected should not be re-elected every year as long as it kept up its scientific activity. He was of opinion that a failure on the part of a Corresponding Society to send a Delegate to any meeting of the Association should not disqualify that Society for re-election, although it was expected that when a Delegate did attend the meeting of the Association he should be present at the Conferences. Prof. Meldola further stated that some few of the Societies which had been elected last year did not appear in this year's list, the reason being that the Secretaries had not filled in and returned the printed forms sent out at the beginning of the year, nor had any notice been taken of a second application asking whether it was the wish of their Society to be re-elected; so that, as Secretary of the Corresponding Societies Committee, he had concluded that these Societies desired to withdraw, and they had accordingly been removed from the list.

THE COLONIAL AND INDIAN EXHIBITION

RESUMING our notes on some of the principal exhibits (NATURE, vol. xxxiv. p. 548), the Court running parallel with and between those of Mauritius and Seychelles on the one side and Cyprus and Malta on the other was that which contained the collection from the

WEST INDIES.

Vegetable products, as might be expected, formed the bulk of the exhibits in this attractive Court, which had an air of comfort and finish not excelled in any other part of the building. Entering the Court from the northern end, the first bay on the left hand was devoted to

Trinidad, an island celebrated both for the quantity and quality of the cocoa grown upon it, which indeed is the staple article of produce. The value of cocoa exported from Trinidad in 1885 is stated in the Official Hand-book to have amounted to 421,974*l.*, and in some "Notes on Trinidad Industries," by Mr. John McCarthy, F.C.S., the Assistant Commissioner for Trinidad, recently published, it is stated that the quantity of cocoa imported into England in 1885 amounted to 10,560 tons, against 10,120 tons in 1884, and 9986 in 1881. Numerous specimens of cocoa seeds are exhibited, as well as prepared cocoa and chocolate.

Mr. McCarthy describes the cultivation of the cocoa-nut (*Cocos nucifera*) as a very profitable industry, though the tree does not bear much before it is eight years old. Experiments, he tells us, "are now being tried in Trinidad to make it act as a shade tree to the cocoa (*Theobroma*)" instead of planting the quick-growing "Bois immortelle." The idea of this planting is to realise from the same land a double crop, namely, that from the *Theobroma* and that from the *Cocos*. It is estimated that seventy trees planted upon an acre of land would, when in full bearing, yield 5000 nuts per annum, which would net, on an average, from 3*l.* to 4*l.* per thousand in Trinidad. The annual import of nuts into London is said to be about 12,000,000, besides which, New York imports enormous quantities, and they are also used to a very large extent for the expression of oil in Trinidad itself. Coffee has also a prominent place in the products of Trinidad, and the plant is stated to thrive well, although it has not yet produced even sufficient coffee for home consumption. More attention has, however, been directed of late to coffee culture in the island, so that it is largely increasing. The cultivation of tobacco is also an industry that promises to become of some importance, and the tobacco is described as being second only to the finest Havana. There is a good exhibit of cigars, which are said to have met with general favour, so that a demand has arisen for them.

Bahamas.—In the Official Hand-book, Sir Augustus Adderley gives a very readable sketch of the history of these islands, and briefly refers to the natural products, foremost amongst which are corals and sponges. He describes the "sponging and wrecking vessels" as fine models and fast sailers, built by the islanders of native hard wood known as "horseflesh," and planked with yellow pine obtained from North Carolina. Conch shells are exported in large quantities to the value of about 1200*l.* per annum, and the pale pink pearls which are found in them to the extent of 3000*l.* per annum. The sponge exports were estimated at 60,000*l.* for 1885. Mention is made of the abundance of plants valued as medicines, many of which might be further developed by systematic trial of their effects in this country. Perhaps the two best known medicinal plants are the Canella Bark (*Canella alba*, Murr.) and the Sweet Bark or Cascarilla

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[1] This resolution was adopted by the Committee of Recommendations and confirmed by the General Committee.

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(*Croton Eleuteria*, J. J. Benn.). The first has a bitter, acrid, and pungent taste, and a cinnamon-like smell. With us it is used as an aromatic stimulant, and as a condiment in the West Indies. The sweet bark is a bitter aromatic tonic, formerly used as a substitute for Peruvian bark, but now chiefly as an ingredient in pastilles and for mixing with tobacco for the sake of its pleasant musky odour. The cultivation of perfume-yielding plants is recommended as a probable commercial success, the demand for perfumes at the present time being so great that it has even been proposed to cultivate in Australia on a large scale such plants as are now grown at Grasse, Nice, and Cannes.

Jamaica.—The contents of this Court were both numerous and varied. Rum and sugar were fully illustrated by a large number of samples. Coffee was also well represented; of this article the Official Catalogue states that two distinct classes are produced in the island, the total annual export being about 84,000 cwt. per annum, of which about 10,000 cwt. is Blue Mountain coffee, a fine quality, consigned almost entirely to the Liverpool market. Pimento or allspice is a product exclusively of Jamaica, where it is grown in plantations or gardens known as "pimento walks." The commercial article consists of the dried berries, which were exported from Jamaica to the value of 53,867*l.* in 1885. It is very largely used as a spice as well as in medicine, on account of its aromatic and stimulant properties. The fruits contain a quantity of oil, which is obtained by distillation, and is used in perfumery and for similar purposes to which clove-oil is put. Pimento-sticks are amongst the strongest and best for walking-sticks and umbrella-handles, on account of their strength, rigidity, and non-liability to crack. The pimento-tree is of low growth, and is known to botanists as *Pimenta officinalis.*

In this Court were shown some remarkably fine samples of Annatto seeds (*Bixa Orellana*), noted for their plumpness, as well as for their bright colour, the waxy coating of the seeds being highly valued as a red colouring-matter. A large and interesting collection of fruits preserved in a salt-solution were here shown; amongst others the following will attract attention: Star-apple (*Chrysophyllum Cainito*), Cocoa-plum (*Chrysobalanus Icaco*), Blimbing (*Averrhoa Bilimbi*), Akee (*Cupania edulis*, better known, perhaps, as *Blighia sapida*). Many of these are the produce of introduced plants, and the fruits are for the most part fine examples. Amongst a number of specimens of essential oils from well-known plants, most of which are apparently of excellent quality, are some that are but very little known, such, for instance, as those from the Bermuda Cedar (*Juniperus bermudiana*), the Mountain Cigar Bush (*Hedyosmum nutans*), Mountain Thyme (*Micromeria obovata*), Cigar Bush (*Critonea dalea*), and the Sand Box-tree (*Hura crepitans*).

Barbados.—The exhibits from this island consisted largely of similar produce to the islands already referred to. As illustrating the extent of land occupied by sugar cultivation, it is stated in the introductory notice of Barbados in the Official Hand-book, by the Hon. C. C. Knollys, that "out of a total acreage of 106,470 acres, an area of 100,000 acres is devoted to canes." Tobacco is recommended for extended cultivation, and root-crops such as arrowroot and cassava give heavy returns.

British Honduras.—We take this dependency in this order, as it occupied a position in the Exhibition next that of Barbados. The importance of timber in the produce of British Honduras is seen by a simple glance at the exhibits, and to the future development of these timber resources lies in a very great measure the future prosperity of the colony. In the introductory notes to these exhibits the following paragraph occurs:—"To its timber and dye-woods the colony of British Honduras owes its existence, and whatever measure of progress and advancement it may have attained. To the discovery, first of logwood, and subsequently of mahogany, its original settlement must be ascribed." Notwithstanding the importance of the forest produce, very few of the timbers are yet known either to commerce or to science, but many of them are of exceptional hardness and beauty. Mahogany is, of course, the most important wood in the colony, and, next to it, the cedar (*Cedrela adorata*), which is not only exported to a very large extent, but is also used in the colony for light indoor work—cigar-boxes, trunks, packing-cases, and for dug-out canoes, several of which were exhibited. Amongst a collection of lianes, or climbing-plants, is a specimen of the chew-stick (*Gouania domingenesis*), with the singular information, besides that of its use as a tooth-brush and tooth-powder, that "it is used in place of yeast to start fermentation in making ginger- and spruce-beer, &c." Probably the most striking object in this Court is a large and beautifully figured slab of mahogany; the dark wavy cross-markings are extremely beautiful and very remarkable in this wood; the plank is, moreover, without a flaw.

Dominica.—The space occupied by this island, as well as by the remaining colonies, was small; the exhibits on the whole, however, were interesting, and some were worth noting, such, for instance, as the husks or shells of the Liberian coffee, which are said to be worth from 1 to 2 cents. per pound in the United States, the fruits of *Acacia Farnesiana*, stated to be used in tanning, and bark of Guava, the *Psidium Guayava*, which is rich in tannin, and is used as an astringent. Raw lime-juice is exported from Dominica in increasing quantities, but the greater part of the juice is boiled down until ten or twelve gallons are reduced to one, and is shipped in this concentrated form to England and the United States for the manufacture of citric acid.

Montserrat.—Sugar and lime-juice are the principal staples of this island, and these were the most prominent exhibits.

St. Kitts and the Virgin Islands.—From these islands the exhibits were but small, and without special interest.

Antigua.—The chief product of this colony is sugar, the average crop of which for the last twenty years is stated to have been about 12,000 hogsheads. Yams, potatoes, and Guinea corn are also grown in large quantities for native consumption. The exhibits were for the most part such as were shown in other West Indian Courts.

Grenada.—Cocoa is the most important article grown here, and some very fine fruits of good colour were shown, as well as nutmegs (*Myristica fragrans*) custard apples, or bullock's heart (*Anona reticulata*), papaws (*Carica Papaya*), Kola nuts (*Cola acuminata*). These latter were remarkably fine specimens. A good deal of attention, we are glad to see, has recently been paid to its cultivation. The tree exists in all parts of the island, and was introduced in years past by the African slaves, who used to regard it as a specific against intoxication.

Tobago.—The productive resources of this small island are varied, and were well exemplified in the collection of fruits, seeds, fibres, &c. The collection of preserved native fruits in syrup, and jellies prepared from them, was a special feature in this Court, a sample of preserved or candied papaw (*Carica Papaya*) being especially good.

St. Lucia.—Sugar, rum, and molasses are the chief products; cocoa and logwood are also produced in quantities, though the latter is stated to be at the present time a drug in the market. Tobacco, it is stated, has been tried in one district with most satisfactory results, so that it is purposed to extend its cultivation. Neither the individual exhibits in this Court, nor in the remaining one of *St. Vincent*, call for any special remark. We cannot conclude our notice of the West Indian exhibits without a reference to the series of over 100 water-colour drawings, by Mrs. Blake, illustrative of the flora of the West Indian Islands.

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